

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 5 January 2004. Responsive to the rejections made in the Official Action, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the combination of elements which form the invention of the subject Patent Application. Additionally, Claims 3, 5 and 6 have been amended to correct the language thereof and Claim 2 has been cancelled by this Amendment.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 through 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Hinckley et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0,015,718.

Before discussing the prior art relied upon by the Examiner, it is believed beneficial to first briefly review the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application, is directed to a mouse device with multimedia hotkeys. The mouse device includes a mouse body and an input portion including at least one general function key for selecting computer functions. The mouse device includes a mouse motion tracking mechanism for moving a computer cursor responsive to movement of the mouse body. The device includes a circuit board for controlling operations of the mouse device and a peripheral interface for transmitting data processed by the circuit board to a computer. The mouse device includes at least one multimedia

hotkey mounted on the mouse body and connected to the circuit board. The circuit board has a pre-set data format associated with the at least one multimedia hotkey. When the multimedia hotkey is depressed, the pre-set data will be encoded by the circuit board and transmitted to the computer through the peripheral interface. Subsequently, an associated multimedia program is executed by the computer.

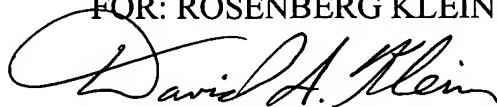
In contradistinction, the Hinckley et al. reference is directed to a method for displaying widget information responsive to sensing a physical presence proximate to a computer input device. The computer input device, such as a mouse, includes touch sensors for detecting contact by a user or for anticipating the approach of a user's hand, which are converted to a digital signal for the microcontroller by an A/D converter. As shown in the block diagram of Fig. 37, the input devices 43 provide an input to the interface 46 that in turn routes a signal to the computer's operating system and in particular to device driver 60 thereof. The device drivers interpret the signal produced by the input devices and in response thereto generate "appropriate events", Section 161. Those events are passed by the operating system to the particular application, and from there to the graphical user interface 910. Thus, the system of Hinckley utilizes the widget software in the computer to which the input device is coupled to interpret the detection/lack of detection output from the particular input devices (touch sensors). Therefore, if the Hinckley sensors are utilized as multimedia hotkeys, as

discussed in Section 135, such require the computer to which the input device is connection to format the required key codes to perform the specific multimedia function.

Whereas, in the invention of the subject Patent Application, no additional software and A/D converter are required to enable the hotkey operation. The circuit board of the invention of the subject Patent Application includes the pre-set data format associated with the multimedia hotkey, which format is transmitted to the computer through the peripheral interface, as disclosed in FIG. 2 and on page 4 of the subject Patent Application. Nowhere does the reference disclose or suggest the inclusion of a circuit board having a pre-set data format associated with the at least one multi-media hotkey. As the reference fails to disclose or suggest the combination of elements which form the invention of the subject Patent Application, it cannot make obvious that invention.

Therefore, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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